

In the Abstract

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Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention relates to a new immortalized hepatocyte culture of human (preferably human fetal) normal cell origin. ~~origin, a method of producing said culture, a screening method for a compound or a salt thereof which inhibits or promotes an enzyme activity involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, or which inhibits or promotes the expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, or which inhibits or promotes the induction of expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, characterized by the use of said culture, a compound which inhibits or promotes an enzyme activity involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, a compound which inhibits or promotes the expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, or a compound which inhibits or promotes the induction of expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, obtained using said screening method, or salts thereof.~~ The immortalized hepatocyte culture of human normal cell origin of the present invention is useful in, for example, screening for compounds or salts thereof having therapeutic/preventive effects on hepatic insufficiency.